

Middlesex/Union Counties ALB Infestation

On May 17, a second contractor crew began removing trees in Rahway. There are now two contractors, with multiple crews, working to remove trees from the Middlesex/Union Counties Infestation areas. To date, approximately 8,500 trees are scheduled to be removed.

As of May 19, 5,014 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine area. Of those, 507 were infested host trees and 4,507 were high risk exposed host trees. Crews continued removing trees this week in areas of Rahway, Woodbridge and Carteret. Currently, 15 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJDA, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Seven USDA Forest Service Smokejumpers, continue to survey trees in the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine; to date a total of 17,527 trees have been inspected.

Program personnel are making final preparations for tree treatments in the Middlesex/Union Counties ALB quarantine area. Treatments are slated to start in late May, with approximately 20,000 trees to be treated with the insecticide imidacloprid. The insecticide will be injected into the tree's trunk or into the soil surrounding the tree.

Jersey City/Hoboken ALB Infestation

Four program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City/Hoboken ALB quarantine area. To date, 923 host trees were surveyed with no signs of ALB.

On May 17, the Associated Press published a story on the USDA plan to treat trees in Middlesex/Union counties with imidacloprid to fight the spread of the Asian longhorned beetle. The story ran in the following media outlets: New York Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, New York Newsday, Asbury Park Press, Home News Tribune and WNBC-TV.